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REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF

COMMON SCHOOLS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Little Rock, Arkansas,
30th October, 1860.

To his Excellency, ELIAS N. CONWAY,
Governor of the State of Arkansas:

SIR—In compliance with law, I herewith submit to you my report of the condition of common schools in this state, and all the information that has been received at this office relative to the school lands and county funds for that object.

Reports have only been received from the commissioners of two counties; though I have delayed this report some time with the hope that I would receive the annual reports of a large number, if not from all of the county commissioners, who are strictly required to report annually to this office by the first Monday in October of each year.

It appears to me that some legislation ought to be had in regard to our common school system, so as to vest in the county courts, the power to remove the commissioner, in default of making, at the proper

time, his annual report to the superintendent, with a full and exact statement of the amount of the several school funds in his charge; and a particular and exact statement of the amount at interest, and at what rate, and how secured to the fund; also, the quantity of land sold during the year, and at what price per acre; and the quantity remaining unsold, with an estimate of the value per acre. And to recommend to the county court, when, in his opinion, the school lands of the county ought to be withheld from sale. Power should also be conferred on him to stop the sale of any lands advertised for sale, when, in his opinion, the interest of the fund would seem to require it. Many of the best lands, belonging to the school fund, have already been sacrificed by a combination of those wishing to purchase, and as there yet remains much of this land that is valuable, the sales cannot, in future, be too well guarded to protect the interest of the fund.

A synopsis of the reports received from Crawford and Poinsett counties is submited, as a matter of information, in regard to the schools in those counties.

In Crawford county, ten schools have been in operation during the ast year; nine taught by males, and one by a female; number of children over five and under twenty-one years of age, 2,420; amount of state funds, $143 30; county fund, $1,431 72; township fund, $6,131 77; making a total of $7,706 79; amount of taxes refunded by sheriff, being amount due on school lands sold, $42 07; number of teachers employed, ten, and at an average price of $27 00 per month; number of school houses, ten; number of acres of land, sold since 1st October, 1859, 560; number of acres sold, up to 1st October, 1860, 3,793; and the number of acres remaining unsold is 7,777 50.

In Poinsett county the common schools are in a bad, unorganized condition. Number of common schools, none; number of school-houses, six; number of children over five and under twenty-one years of age, 927; amount of state and county fund, $2,000 00; amount of township fund, $8,400 00; amount annually expended for common schools, agreeable to the best information, $500 00, number of children at school, 80; price paid for tuition, $1 50 per month.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. M. WEAVER,
Secretary of State,
and ex-officio Commissioner of Common Schools.